

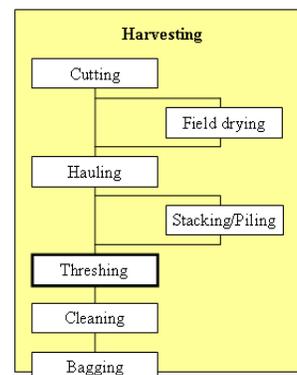
# Threshing

## What is threshing?

Threshing is part of the harvesting process. Harvesting is the process of collecting the mature crop from the field and includes cutting, hauling, threshing, cleaning and optionally field drying and/or staking or piling.

## Why is proper and timely threshing important?

Any delay between cutting and threshing causes rapid deterioration of the grains, especially during field drying or when the crop is stacked or piled in the field. Improper threshing can also cause high threshing and scattering losses.



## Threshing methods

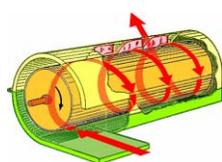
Threshing involves separating the grains from the straw either by impact, friction or combing action.

### Machine threshing

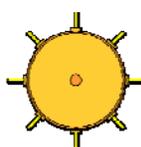


Because of high labor requirement of manual threshing stationary threshers of different types and sizes are increasingly being used.

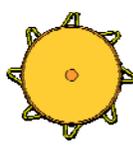
Depending on farming systems, post-harvest practices and infrastructure, threshers come in different sizes and range from small portable units without cleaner (Iloilo, Philippines) to large, truck mounted units (Thailand). Threshing is either done in the field, near the field or at the nearest road.



Crop flow in a typical axial-flow thresher



Pegtooth threshing drum (axial-flow thresher)



Wire loop threshing drum (pedal thresher)

## For more information contact

Agricultural Engineering Unit  
IRRI, DAPO Box 7777, Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel.: (63-2) 580-5600, Fax.: (63-2) 580-5699  
Email: M.Gummert@cgiar.org  
J.Rickman@cgiar.org

**IRRI** INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### Manual threshing

#### Foot threshing or trampling



Use of bare feet or animal to thresh the crop, which is spread on the floor. In some regions animals were replaced by tractors.

#### Beating against a threshing rack



The grains are separated from the straw by impact when beating the crop against a slatted bamboo, wooden platform or any other hard object such as a steel oil drum.

#### Flail

Flails thrashing the crop are seldom used.

#### Pedal thresher



Holding the crop against a threshing drum driven by a foot crank combs the grains from the straw. Because small straw, chaff and foreign matter drops with the grains cleaning is needed.